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SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 1, 1901.

LET US REASON TOGETHER.

If anything were lacking to demonstrate the rightfulness of the measure to give healthy children the right of entry to the public schools, which has passed both houses of the Legislature by a large majority, it has been supplied by the misrepresentations of its opponents. They either do not understand its purpose, or they cannot appreciate their own failure to furnish a relevant argument against it.

The McMillan bill, which must await action by the Governor, simply puts in plain English that which was intended by previous legislatures, in reference to the powers conferred on boards of health. It takes away nothing heretofore conferred by law. To the ordinary reader the law as it stands on the statute book of 1893, even including that of 1898, is sufficiently plain without further legislation. But it has been so construed and strained, to reach the design of a few doctors, that something was absolutely needed to place the matter beyond further dispute.

The bill now passed does not, as frequently stated, "oppose vaccination." Some of its strong advocates are believers in the virtues of vaccination. It does not hinder the full operation of sanitary and quarantine regulations. It does not attempt to cripple any board of health in measures necessary to protect the public from the spread of contagion. The provisions of existing laws are left intact by the measure that has been passed.

The bill framed to meet the desires and demands of an overwhelming majority of the people of this State, forbids the imposition of vaccination as a condition precedent to the admission of healthy children, unexposed to contagion, into the public schools. That is all. Will not the small minority who have fought the measure, please look at it in the light of reason, and without the spectacles of prejudice?

There is no question, in the present movement, as to whether or not vaccination is a preventive or a palliative of smallpox. That does not figure in the discussion. No one disputes the rightfulness of the powers conferred by law, to quarantine persons afflicted with a contagious disease or who have been exposed to it. There is no attempt to admit to a school any child liable through disease or exposure to it, to carry infection to other school children. The endeavors made during the debate to confound these matters, and mix them up so as to muddle the public mind, only serve to confirm the opponents of lawless tyranny, in their determination to carry out the will of the people.

After discussing the merits of the bill in committee and in open session, there was no need for its advocates to go into lengthy arguments in its favor. The notion that they could not, because they would not do so, was worthy only of a lawyer who, finding himself in the wrong, sought to irritate and provoke the other side. The same opponent asked, as reported to the press:

"Suppose it were a cholera epidemic—and this bill is broad enough to include cholera and diphtheria too—this bill would render the board of health powerless to act, and cholera and diphtheria would rage through the State and where would we be?"

That shows a lack of understanding of the bill that is truly surprising in a senator. The bill does not prevent any of the precautions necessary in an epidemic, no matter of what disease. It does not touch on cholera, or diphtheria, nor does it hinder regulations as to smallpox, such as may be enforced against any other disease when epidemic. If either disorder were prevalent, would healthy children, unexposed to it, be shut out of the public schools? If the bill had not been passed, would healthy school children be selected alone as objects of regulations against cholera? Should they be vaccinated against it or against diphtheria?

If there is or should be an epidemic of smallpox, and vaccination is the "sure preventive" it is claimed to be, why confine the compulsion to school children who, according to the health reports, have been the least subject to the disease? The majority of cases alleged to be smallpox are of persons above school age. Why not compel vaccination of adults? There has been no epidemic among school children, or that can be traced to that one class of the population.

The senator who so strongly supports the course of the secretary of the board of health also made this remark:

"It is absolutely proven beyond a doubt, that a child in perfect health can communicate the disease to another child in a school room, through carrying the infection of smallpox in its clothes."

cannot a vaccinated child, if exposed, "communicate the disease to another child in the school room, through carrying the infection in its clothes?"

Now let the senator compare his own statement which is true but fatal to his own argument, with the assertion of the autocrat of the health board whom he supports, which we have published before and which is as follows, verbatim:

"In my opinion there would be no danger to be anticipated from the attendance of teachers at the State Teachers' convention, provided they shall have been successfully vaccinated; otherwise there would be great danger. They would not be liable to carry the disease to others unless they themselves should first have contracted it."

One more assertion made by the Senator who would bar out healthy, unexposed children from the schools, we will briefly notice. It is this:

"A great many people are in favor of it [the bill] who do not know what it is or what its effect will be. I am informed that every State in the Union has a law similar to the one which this measure is designed to repeal, which gives the board of health the right to exercise judicious authority under police regulations."

If the people whose intelligence is thus depreciated, have no better information than the Senator's, as displayed in those expressions, they are indeed in the dark and unqualified to pass on the question. First, the bill does not repeal any provision of law. Second, all the "judicious authority" referred to will still remain, if the bill becomes a law. Third, every State in the Union does not have such a law as he claims; and where compulsory vaccination is established by law, healthy school children are not selected as a class solely to be operated upon.

The people of Utah, or, as stated by several legislators, ninety per cent of them, unite in calling for this measure to abolish certain arbitrary regulations which they deem oppressive, partial and not warranted by law. Are they to have no voice in a matter that concerns their welfare and that of their children? Has it come to this pass in Utah, that popular government is for the time abolished, and the will of a few physicians and their small following, is to override and stifle the public voice spoken in no uncertain tones? We hope not.

We advise calm judgment in the settlement of this matter, and fair treatment. If compulsory vaccination is proper, make it obligatory by law, and enforce it upon all alike. If it is advisable for children only, say so in plain terms, that there may be no dispute over its actual meaning. But let the present unsatisfactory, obnoxious, attempted domination through a doubtful construction of our statute cease, and let the bill passed by so large a majority become a law. Then press voluntary vaccination as much as you please, and enforce all rational measures for sanitation and quarantine, and thus effectually arrest the progress of contagious disease.

THE MILITARY FUNERAL.

The funeral of the late Queen Victoria is likely to be one of the most spectacular and memorable pageants of the time. The remains will be escorted from Cowes by the magnificent warships of the greatest naval powers of Europe, and from the landing place to the last resting place, the military forces of the United Kingdom will march in the procession or line the route.

Some surprise is expressed that the Queen, who was known to be an ardent advocate of peace, should have expressed a desire for a military funeral, but this is not strange, when it is remembered that Great Britain owes much of her greatness to the army and the navy. The wish to have a military funeral may have been a last acknowledgment of the services rendered by the soldiers and sailors of the nation, to the throne and the empire. Perhaps it was expressed, too, for the sake of conveying to the world the fact that she was not unconscious of the effects upon her health, of the bitter losses sustained by herself, as well as the people, in the lamentable conflict in Africa. If it is true, as very generally supposed, that she broke down under the events of the last year, she certainly was one of the victims of war, and would naturally claim, in death, comradeship with the heroes that fell on the field of battle. A military funeral of a queen, who never used her influence to stir up strife between monarchs, should be a sermon on the consequences of war, not easily forgotten.

From the sovereign that has passed away, all eyes are now directed toward the "King of Great Britain, Emperor of India, and Defender of the Faith." No body can even guess with any degree of certainty, what qualities he may make most prominent as a ruler of a mighty nation. Some new burdens and responsibilities will be his, and he will undoubtedly regulate his life accordingly. He is well educated, popular, and has a vast fund of experience. He is gracious, sympathetic and approachable. For this country he is believed to entertain the most friendly feelings. Great Britain, under Victoria, has been carried, it has been stated, from the status of an aristocratic monarchy to that of a democratic empire. The new ruler may possibly continue on the path followed during the greater part of the last century. He may, if he is ambitious, exercise even greater personal influence upon the affairs of state than did his illustrious mother.

TO REDEEM CRIMINALS.

At a time when the country is startled by violations of law on every hand, such as lynchings and "reforms" by means of hatchets and bricks, and when legislators in some States talk about the revival of barbarous punishments for a certain class of offenders of one sex, it might be well to pay some attention to what philanthropists have to say on the subject of crime and criminals.

Several months ago Commander Booth-Tucker, made the statement that the criminal population of the country might be reduced to one-half of its present proportion, and that 50 per cent of the convicts discharged from the state prisons, might be reclaimed by a rational method of treatment. This is

a rather severe criticism of present methods, which consume so large a portion of the heavy taxes the citizens are paying for the privilege of being governed and protected. But is it just? If so, it deserves consideration.

Mr. Booth-Tucker asserts that the results indicated would be obtained by an intelligent colonization plan. His point is this, that the criminal left to himself almost invariably drifts back to the slums of crowded cities, where crime is bred as sickness from microbes, while every experiment tried for the redemption of the criminal by extending to him the opportunity for useful and profitable employment, which secures independence, has met with signal success. Perhaps no more striking illustration can be found of this, than the present status of some "colonies" that originally were peopled with individuals condemned to deportation for life.

There can be no doubt of it, that criminal tendencies are increased and developed where the dangerous elements of the community congregate, join strength and mutually encourage one another to defiance of both divine and human laws. The remedy for this would be to cleanse such places thoroughly and not permit the moral filth to accumulate and ferment in any one place. The inhabitants of the slums might be helped to a life of independence in localities suitable for a natural and healthful mode of life. It is to be presumed that many lead a life of poverty and degradation, not from choice but from necessity. These would gradually, were a helping hand extended to them, abandon the slums and settle in farming districts. The depraved element would then be deprived of much of its power to draw accession to its ranks, and it would be comparatively easy to handle. It is not an exaggeration to say, that if reformers were as zealous in their search for remedies against crime as for "punishments" for criminals, the sum total of law-breaking might in a comparatively short time be reduced fifty per cent and more. A plan of life where human interests are allied rather than opposed to each other, takes away the motive for most of the crimes against human laws ever committed.

To be sure a rational plan for the redemption of the criminal element of society would be an expensive affair, but so is the present struggle against crime and vice. A redemptive work would, however, in due time bring material profits to the State, while the exclusively punitive plan is only a source of enormous expense.

"MORMONS" AT LOST RIVER

The Wilkesboro, N. C., Chronicle, of recent date, publishes a letter from Lost River, Idaho, written by a former resident of Wilkesboro, which contains the annexed paragraph. As the gentleman is a non-"Mormon" his testimony will no doubt be beneficial to our missionaries in North Carolina. We have not space to spare for the whole letter, but copy merely the chief reference to the "Mormon" residents at Lost River:

"Most of the people here on Lost River are Mormons, or of Mormon antecedents rather; for actual Church membership, of any kind, is small here in point of number. Though I have no predilections tending toward the acceptance of the stories connected with the hill of Cumorah and the mission of Joseph Smith, still years of personal experience and contact with them have convinced me that the Mormons are a people who have been very much misrepresented, as well as misunderstood, abroad and in Utah and even in Idaho, have been more sinned against than sinning. On Lost River they are certainly the best people we have. I see in the Chronicle that their missionaries are at work in old Wilkes. I simply bespeak for them a respectful hearing and hope no one in Wilkes will ever be driven off by threats of persecution, tar and feathers, etc. This much in behalf of the Saints of the Latter-day persuasion."

THE VOICE OF GAMALIEL.

The Boston Transcript, speaking of the tendency in this country to divide on religious topics and form new sects, has this paragraph, the contents of which are thoroughly American, and worthy of the famous Rabbi Gamaliel:

"Sometimes these sects have a genuine mission, as that of the Society of Friends, which reaches millions no other religious body could in any manner touch. Such a success amply justifies the new sect, and forbids our wishing that General Booth's genius should be exercised in that way. Indeed, what we are to desire is that new sects shall have their ample opportunity, and that they shall have perfect freedom to justify themselves to the community. If they are needed they will live; but if no one desires what they have to give, they will die of their own inability to make proselytes. In proportion as they succeed in the popular way, if they are needed, and we must recognize the fact that no sect, however old or powerful, can satisfy the spiritual needs of all the American people. We think much, however crudely, but we are not bound by tradition, and we are not awed by numbers."

We cannot forbear the remark that if the principles here enunciated had been generally acted upon, there would never have been any religious persecutions, such as now disgrace the pages of history. There would never have been, in this country, a "Mormon" problem. For that "problem" resolves itself finally to the right of existence of one religious body as against the assumed prerogatives of others. To annihilate the "Mormon" Church has been, and is still, the object of its adversaries. That is the real "problem." No matter what form in which the attacks have been made, or they may still assume, there has been, and is, but one purpose.

Fortunately, "Mormonism" has a mission, a genuine mission. It is not an experiment. It can no more be annihilated than can the eternal truth itself be forced out of the universe.

Crazy Snake is a "rattler."

Cartie continues to add to the gaiety of the Nation.

The czar is doing a Russian business in Manchuria.

It is said that Mrs. Nation is hatched-faced and has a hacking cough.

Pat Crowe has ceased to be a nine days' wonder, and seemingly has passed into the great unknown.

enough to dispute the statement, yet this fact does not prevent people from doubting it.

Bishop Potter's vigilance committee is to have a "clearing house." This is preliminary to a "house cleaning."

The exposure of tax-dodging in the Legislature on Thursday is startling and suggestive. A strict inquiry is in order.

More and more robberies are reported from the Vatican. What are those Swiss guards in their Michael Angelo costumes doing?

Has Col. Roosevelt exterminated the mountain lions of Colorado? There have been no further accounts of killings lately.

It is not generally known but Texas has more timber than any State in the Union. But as yet she has produced no presidential timber.

The legislators did not go to the State fish hatchery for brain food or to hatch plots. They just went to see how it would be to be in the "swim."

The weather is but moderately cold but the variety of topcoats worn is really astonishing. Many wear light spring overcoats, some discard them altogether, while others don heavy fur coats, such coats as are usually found in Canada and the Klondike. Who is most comfortable?

The New York anti-vice crusaders were not happy in terming their special committee a vigilance committee. The name brings up so many disagreeable associations and recalls so many outrages that it tends very strongly to repel people. Here is a case where there is a great deal in a name.

Napoleon sneered at England as a nation of shopkeepers, and various nations took up the sneer and repeated it. But what are the nations doing today in the Orient? Each and every one of them is insisting on the open door policy in China that they may be shopkeepers to the Chinese.

The failure of the attempt to arbitrate the Scofield strike difficulties is greatly to be deplored. The board, however, cannot exceed its lawful powers. But would it not be well for both sides to agree to an arbitration, by disinterested and able men? We think so, and hope something of the kind may yet be accomplished.

THE DEATH OF VERDI.

Chicago Times-Herald.

If the necrology of the year 1901 were to stop with the names of Victoria and Verdi, or if but one of those names were in the list, the record would still be a memorable one. The Italian composer, like the English queen, had his world empire, a larger one than hers, and if his position was inferior in dignity and power, his subjects to the third and fourth generation owed a large debt of pleasure to his long and delightful reign. They were ever ready to be charmed again, as Owen Meredith was when he registered his judgment: Of all the operas that Verdi wrote, The best, to my taste, is the Trovatore; And Mario can soothe, with a tenor note, The souls in purgatory.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The place of Giuseppe Verdi among the world's great composers would have been secured had he died a generation or more ago. He was more than any other who came to mind, precocious in youth and productive even in extreme old age. The world owes much to the man who became organist in his native town at the age of ten and scored one of the great modern triumphs with "Falstaff" at seventy-nine. From their nature the florid productions of his earlier career are more popular than those later works in which he approached closely to what has been termed the music-drama, and which showed that at threescore he was not too old to be affected by modern influences, of which Wagner's was of course the strongest.

Worcester Spy.

Verdi the venerable composer, was a man who left the world his debtor. Critics of music may wrangle a good deal as to whether his work is to live and as to its degree of excellence, but their discussion is not of much moment to the public. His operas are truly tuneful, and they have been a source of enjoyment to countless thousands in Europe and America. Even should Verdi's compositions pass entirely and forever out of vogue, what he contributed to the pleasure of those of his own time would still entitle his name to a high and honorable place among the world's musicians.

San Francisco Call.

When Dr. Johnson wrote that the death of Garrick had "eclipsed the gayety of nations" he defended the phrase on the ground that it was "a pardonable exaggeration of affection." No sort of apology or excuse need be given for applying the words to the death of Verdi. The great Italian musician added more to the general joy of the civilized world than any other man of his time. There was a class that raved over Rossini, and there is a school that cultivates an adoration of Wagner, but Verdi was the master of the universal heart. His music sang itself into the hearts of all who heard it, and remained as a lasting memory to be summoned up at will whenever there was felt a need of song to give expression to emotion.

AS TO AN EXTRA SESSION.

Chicago Chronicle.

"Current opinion" at the capital is quoted to the effect that a call for an extra session would be justified only by the total failure of one of the most important appropriation bills or the army reorganization bill. The river and harbor bill and the bill to reduce the "war taxes" might both fall without creating any necessity for an extra session. Indeed, "current opinion" goes so far as to say that the country could survive without an extra session even if the army reorganization bill should fail. It points out that the country is worrying along now under what is called a "makeshift" measure which provides for a volunteer army for extraordinary service in the Philippines and elsewhere, and contemplates a return to the standing army of the days before the war with Spain, when the need of extraordinary service is over.

Philadelphia Press.

The country does not want an extra session of the new Congress. It will be an unnecessary expense, and will not be needed if the present Congress does its duty. As it can be avoided it should be avoided. All necessary legislation can be done before March 4, if the Senate is diligent and attends to business. The greatest apprehension of delay comes from that body. Its well-known dilatoriness and prolixity in debate have more than once blocked the wheels of legislation and left work unaccomplished and compelled an extra session. This ought not to occur this year. Congress started off with such encouraging speed last December and did so much during the holiday season that failure now would be doubly disappointing.

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